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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 002451

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STATE FOR EUR/WE, NSC FOR BRADLEY E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/2018 TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: UK PM GORDON BROWN REASSERTS HIS LEADERSHIP AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, BUT DAVID CAMERON LOOMS REF: A. LONDON 2163 B. LONDON 2010 C.

Classified By: DCM Richard LeBaron, reasons 1.4 b, d

1. (C/NF) Summary and comment. Gordon Brown succeeded in reestablishing his authority at the Labour Party's Fall Conference in Manchester Sept
2. (C/NF) Summary continued. In his keynote speech, which the media dubbed "the speech of his political life" beforehand, Brown hammered the C
In the Face of Sinking Polls and a Low Level Revolt... -----
3. (SBU) Prime Minister Brown's year-long run of grim news (reftels) continued in the run-up to the conference. A September 19 poll of 788 Lat
4. (SBU) In addition to the by-now predictably low poll numbers, Brown was forced to quash a minor revolt the week of September 15, after a dc
...Brown Comes Back... -----
5. (SBU) Brown's performance appears to have done the job. In the run-up to Brown's speech, key members of his cabinet, including Alistair Dar
6. (SBU) Nonetheless, the speech was well received, both in the conference hall itself and with the media, and Brown received a corresponding
...But Infighting Mars His Victory -----
7. (C/NF) Brown's comeback was tarnished by the leak September 24 of the news that Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly planned to step down at the
8. (SBU) Whoever ultimately leaked the resignation, the resulting infighting demonstrated that Brown still needs to shore up his support withi
Taking Advantage of the U.S. Economic Crisis -----
9. (SBU) In addition to stressing the Tories' lack of economic experience, Brown and Chancellor Alistair Darling sought to highlight the regul
Foreign Policy -----
10. (SBU) While Brown did not mention foreign policy issues in his speech, beyond praising the bravery of British troops in Iraq and Afghanist
Comment: Here Comes David Cameron -----
11. (C/NF) Brown had a good conference - but it may not have been enough. At this time last year, Brown was riding high in the polls. David Ca
TUTTLE